

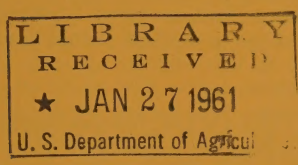
62

In

# HYBRID PEONIES

*by*

A. P. SAUNDERS



SILVIA SAUNDERS

Clinton

New York

1960

THE STRAINS offered here are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest.

MY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS advance the peony season by two to three weeks, beginning here about May 12. The last of them, the lobatas, begin in early June, like the great race of albifloras, and bloom for two or three weeks. Tree peonies usually bloom the last week in May and on into June, when the lutea hybrids start, followed at last by P. lutea itself.

ALL MY HYBRIDS are always in short supply, so it may save time if you will indicate second choices, or even grant me the privilege of substituting the most closely similar plant of equal value. Many of my friends leave it partly or entirely up to me to choose plants for them, and of course I am glad to do this. Every care will be taken.

PEONY SHIPPING SEASON is September and October. Transportation is prepaid, and recipient notified at the time. Cash should accompany order.

A. P. Saunders

THIS CATALOG may probably be the last one to come from the Saunders nursery in Clinton.

PRICES have been omitted. I hope, as long as I carry on this nursery, to issue each summer a typed list, giving prices on all plants available that year.

THOSE INTERESTED IN PEONY BREEDING may still for a few more years obtain from me plants of many hybrid strains without going to the expense of purchasing the "garden varieties" selected and catalogued.

#### SOME OTHER NURSERIES OFFERING SAUNDERS HYBRIDS

William Gratwick, Pavilion, New York, who has for many years offered a full list of the lutea hybrids. Mission Gardens, Techny, Illinois. Herbaceous and lutea hybrids.

Keith and Peggy Goldsmith, 9108 Olympic View Drive, Edmonds, Washington. Herbaceous hybrids only, a very complete listing.

Lambert Peonies, J. R. Lambert, 1034 Columbia Avenue, Sinking Spring, Pa. Lutea hybrids only.

Harold E. Wolfe, 24 South 86th Street, Belleville, Illinois. Lutea hybrids, starting in about 1963.

*Directions for Planting and Growing Peonies  
will be found on the inside back cover.*

Silvia Saunders

THE SAUNDERS HYBRIDS consist of crosses not only between *P. albiflora* and *P. officinalis* (the cross responsible for some 95% of American hybrid peonies) but between many other species as well. These species have long been, and many still are, unknown to American gardens, and reached Clinton only through the generosity of Botanical Gardens and private collectors in Europe, particularly of course in England.

THE HYBRIDS THUS CREATED have made a very considerable contribution of hardy, lovely and entirely new plants for our gardens; they have lengthened forward into the second half of May the season of easily grown and beautiful herbaceous peonies, and have introduced new colors, especially the brilliant pinks of the "lobatas" and the yellows and unique reds of the lutea hybrids.

BY THE TIME DR. SAUNDERS' life came to its close in 1953, there had either immigrated into his garden or been born here no less than 17,000 individual peony plants. Of these, the herbaceous hybrids comprise the very large proportion: perhaps 14,000. And of these 14,000 there were eventually selected, as fine enough to name and offer to the public, about 165 varieties: slightly over 1 per cent. Some of these were later withdrawn, superseded by finer kinds. In this final catalog are listed the 120 that remain in more or less constant demand, together with the seventy-odd lutea hybrids that we have long offered.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES, for those interested, describe various aspects of Dr. Saunders' work:

PLANTS AND GARDENS, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn 25, N. Y. (Vol. 15, No. 2, Aug. 1959, \$1). This issue contains also an article by William Gratwick, "Hybridizing Tree Peonies," very excellent.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, Bronx Park, New York 58, N. Y. (Two issues: May-June, and July-August, 1957. 35¢ per issue). Fairly complete story.

BULLETINS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY, George W. Peyton, Editor, Box 1, Rapidan, Virginia (\$1 per issue when available).

Sept. 1953, Tribute by John C. Wister to Dr. Saunders, and an account of his life in the Society.

Sept. 1954, Article by Dr. Saunders on the Quadruple and the lutea hybrids (reprinted from Dec. 1945).

June 1943, "Plant hybridizing" by Dr. Saunders.

Sept. 1941, A 10-page account by Dr. Saunders, of all those hybrids having an *albiflora* in their parentage. This includes about five-sixths of the herbaceous hybrids.

June 1954, Full account of herbaceous hybrids up to 1926 (reprinted from June 1926).

The Society's **Handbook** may also be had for 25 cents.

# INDEX OF HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS

Alert .....	10	Lavender .....	6
A. Woolcott .....	10	Legion Honor .....	8
Archangel .....	5	Liberator .....	8
Artemis .....	7	Litt. Dorrit .....	9
Astarte .....	7	Lotus Bloom .....	9
Athena .....	7	Lovely Rose .....	11
		Ludovica .....	11
Ballerina .....	6	Lustrous .....	10
Bordeaux .....	8		
Bravura .....	10	Madrigal .....	8
Brt. Diadem .....	7	Magn. Flower .....	6
Buccaneer .....	8	Mariner .....	8
Burgundy .....	7	Marta .....	8
		May Lilac .....	5
Camellia .....	6	Mercy .....	9
Campagna .....	7	Mermaid .....	12
Card. Robe .....	10	Mid May .....	7
Carina .....	10	Montezuma .....	10
Cavatina .....	8	Moonrise .....	11
Cecilia .....	11		
Celia .....	5	Nadia .....	11
Chalice .....	5	Nathalie .....	11
Challenger .....	8	Nosegay .....	4
Claudia .....	10	Nova .....	4
Const. Spry .....	11		
Coralie .....	10	Pageant .....	7
Cytharea .....	11	Paladin .....	10
		Papilio .....	7
Daystar .....	4	Patriot .....	12
Defender .....	8	Picotee .....	5
Diantha .....	4	Playmate .....	4
		Postilion .....	8
Earlybird .....	4		
Easter Morn .....	5	Queen Rose .....	11
Eclipse .....	6		
Ed. Steichen .....	8	Red Red Rose .....	10
Eliz. Cahn .....	6	Requiem .....	5
Eliz. Foster .....	11	Reward .....	6
Ellen Cowley .....	11	Rosalba .....	9
Elysium .....	5	Rose Crystal .....	5
Emblem .....	8	Rose Garland .....	11
Erebus .....	8	Roselette .....	6
Evensong .....	5	Rose Noble .....	7
		Rose Tulip .....	11
Fantasia .....	5	Rosy Wreath .....	8
Firelight .....	7	Rushlight .....	6
Garden Peace .....	5	Sanctus .....	8
Gillian .....	10	Scarlet Tanager .....	9
Good Cheer .....	9	Seraphim .....	5
Good Will .....	9	Serenade .....	5
Grace Root .....	10	Shell Pink .....	5
Great Lady .....	11	Silver Dawn .....	9
Green Ivory .....	6	Silver Swan .....	6
Gwenda .....	4	Skylark .....	11
		Sophie .....	11
Halcyon .....	5	Sprite .....	6
Herald .....	7	Starlight .....	7
Heritage .....	10	Sweet May .....	7
Honor .....	9		
Horizon .....	12	Tantrums .....	8
Janice .....	10	Vic. Lincoln .....	9
Julia Grant .....	10		
		White Innocence .....	11
Ladybird .....	9	Windflower, E. .....	6
Lady Gay .....	7	Windflower, L. .....	6
L. Magnuson .....	10	Winged Victory .....	7
		Your Majesty .....	10



# Herbaceous Peonies

## HYBRIDS

**GROUPED** according to their parent species and arranged roughly in order of blooming season. According to a new system for designating the season of bloom, Ve (Very Early) will cover the bloom of May 12-23 in the Clinton latitude, E (Early) the bloom of May 23 to June 3, and M (Midseason) that of June 3-17. The letter L (Late) would under this system cover the race of albifloras, which bloom in Clinton until about July 4. It must be remembered that seasons of bloom vary by as much as three weeks, so at best our terms are only approximate.

**THE YEAR GIVEN** with each plant is usually the date of its first cataloguing; actually the plant may have made its real debut some years before, at a show.

F2 and F3 refer to second- and third-generation plants, from seed of the (F-1) hybrid plant, but without having been specially hand-pollenized.

### **Tenuifolia x Woodwardi**

**Earlybird** (1939) Ve. A strain. Among the first peonies to bloom. Nice little plants with finely-cut foliage and bright crimson flowers.

### **Mlokosewitschi x tenuifolia**

**Playmate** (1939) Ve. A strain. Small bright rosy flowers held well above the fern-like foliage. Lovely garden plants.

**Nosegay** (1950) Ve. An F2. Small gay flowers held like a bouquet above the tallish plant. Salmon-rose pink. Very charming spring plants.

### **The reciprocal cross: tenuifolia x Mlokosewitschi**

**Gwenda** (1955) Ve. An F2. Exquisite tea-rose goblets; rosy edged, fading to ivory. Sets seed.

**Daystar** (1949) Ve. Gwenda's child, so an F3. Single goblets of clear pale yellow, almost the first peony to bloom. 3 ft. tall with red stems and handsomely pointed leaves. Sets seed.

### **Mlokosewitschi x macrophylla**

**Nova** (1950 as Olga) Ve. An F2. This strain has clear pale yellow flowers and large glossy leaves. Dwarf plants, but good growers and set seed well. Offspring too are often pale yellow.

### **Officinalis x decora alba**

**Diantha** (1941) Ve. Dwarf plants with delightful light pink flowers of medium size. A lovely thing.

### **Albiflora x Ozieri alba**

**Halcyon** (1948) E. Opens palest flush, becomes pure white of fine kid-like substance with marked crimson flares. Crimson stems, stigmas and filaments complete this most finished plant.

### **Corsica x macrophylla**

**Picotée** (1949) E. Long milk-white petals, rounded and edged deep bright pink, on crimson stems. Charmingly dwarf (2 ft.). Sets seed.

### **Albiflora x macrophylla (mid-May to mid-June)**

**Seraphim** (1938) Ve. A strain. Many shining white flowers on a very floriferous plant.

**Shell Pink** (1939) Ve-E. Palest sea-shell pink with faintest cast of yellowish-green.

**Chalice** (1932) E. Large pure shimmering white flowers with long silky stamens, on heavy stems about 3 ft. tall. Immense dark glossy leaves. Very fine. Sets a few seeds; offspring often very good.

The following five names, plus No. 4992, are F2 plants of the cross. The last two are back-crosses (the result of pollen of an albiflora-macrophylla hybrid on an albiflora variety).

**Rose Crystal** (1955) Ve-E. Ivory petals, twisted and pointed like cut-glass, edged and veined rosy. Crimson stigmas and filaments. Exquisite.

**Archangel** (1950) E. A grand white, extremely tall and vigorous. Huge flowers of kid-like substance and great beauty. Almost finer than Chalice.

**Serenade** (1941) E. Palest flush, with a magnificent spray of golden stamens.

**Fantasia** (1941) E-M. Crinkled pale mauve-pink petals of fine substance, on tall crimson stems.

**May Lilac** (1950) E. Unique clear lilac color. Fine.

**4992** This plant has strongly fertile pollen and sets abundant seed year after year; it is offered here especially to those interested in hybridizing.

**Garden Peace** (1941) E. Pure white flowers, four or five to a stem, with gold and crimson centers. Its side blooms give it a very long season. The crimson stems are so tall they may need a stake.

**Requiem** (1941) M. Another lovely waxy-white one, about a week after Garden Peace. Finest substance.

Four other whites of this cross are: **Celia** (E, semi-double); **Easter Morn**, **Elysium** (an F2) and **Evensong**, (M, very similar to Requiem).

## TRIPLE HYBRIDS

In which an albiflora variety was crossed by an F2 of tenuifolia-Mlokošewitschi. All introduced in 1950. All Ve.

**Roselette** Prettily formed large flowers on an unusually tall conspicuous plant. Sets seed.

**Rushlight** Clear warm ivory with a golden heart.

**Sprite** Delicious apple-blossom flowers. Ivory white with palest rosy edges.

### **Veitchi x Emodi**

**Early Windflower**

These two strains (both 1939) are almost exactly alike except that one blooms about May 20, the other a week later.

### **Beresowskyi x Emodi**

**Late Windflower**

The plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers,

like white anemones, are slightly nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and handsome. These set no seed.

## **Albiflora x Wittmanniana—Generally E**

**Ballerina** (1941) Full double of fringed white petals, with greenish and yellow tints. Lovely.

**Elizabeth Cahn** (1942) Delicate white; petals a little twisted; with an underlay of faint green.

**Green Ivory** (1939) Distinct and beautiful white, with greenish reflections.

**Magnolia Flower** (1946) Named for the flower it resembles: large, mauve and cream.

### **Albiflora x decora**

**Reward** (1941) E. This darkest maroon is among the earliest of reds to bloom. Handsome color.

### **Albiflora x decora alba**

**Camellia** (1942) E-M. Exquisite double white rosette flowers; pale blush at base of petals.

**Silver Swan** (1942) E-M. Lovely single white of fine substance, with a silvery quality.

### **Albiflora x coriacea**

**Lavender** (1939) E-M. A strain. Lovely pale lilac, becoming more delicate as the flower ages. May prove hard to grow.

### **Officinalis x coriacea**

**Eclipse** (1950) A new race; dwarf plant, with handsome grey-green foliage, red-veined. Flowers of great substance, black-purple. Difficult to establish.



## QUADRUPLE HYBRIDS

These are my newest race of all, combining four species: albiflora, officinalis, macrophylla and Mloko-sewitschi. The latter gives them all a golden-ivory sheen, putting them in a class by themselves. A very fine vigorous strain; many are brilliantly flared. Introduced from 1949 on. As a strain, their long season covers Ve, E, and often on into M. Some may occasionally set a seed.

**Athena** Ivory, flared conspicuously rosy. Late for this strain.

**Firelight** Bright warm pink, flared deeper, with crimson stigmas and gold center. Fine.

**Lady Gay** Early for the strain. Large ivory flowers, flamboyantly flared bright rose.

**Papilio** Warm ivory, with greenish tints and conspicuous red veinings like a butterfly's wing.

**Rose Noble** Crimson flares, stigmas and filaments provide the contrast in this ivory-and-rose flower.

**Starlight** Ivory yellow, sometimes with warm tints. All gold-and-cream heart. Very similar to Dr. White's Claire de Lune, but a week earlier.

**Winged Victory** Wonderful warm tawny-ivory, with a still warmer center of crimson and gold.

Others in this group follow the color pattern: **Artemis**, **Astarte**, **Bright Diadem**, **Sweet May**.

## TRIPLE HYBRIDS

Combining albiflora, officinalis and macrophylla.  
Officinalis x (albiflora x macrophylla F2)

**Mid May** (1950) E-M. Rounded petals of palest apple-blossom pink. Fine gold center.

**Pageant** (1941) E. Huge light pink flowers with enormous splash of gold stamens. Tall and spectacular.  
Albiflora x (officinalis x macrophylla)

**Burgundy** (1941) E-M. Black-purple; heavy substance. Lustreless. Brilliant gold heart.

**Campagna** (1941) E-M. Deep goblet, pure white with greenish shadows. Heart is all gold, cream and green; no pink tones. An outstanding garden plant.

**Herald** (1950) E. Enormous shining red flower, so brilliant as to be conspicuous. Floriferous.



## **Albiflora x single crimson officinalis—All E-M**

**Challenger** (1932) Tall dark crimson with bright yellow stamens. Garden Achievement Medal and Silver Medal of the American Peony Society.

**Buccaneer** (1932) Like Challenger, but a lighter crimson. Fine.

**Defender** (1932) Large dark mahogany crimson with a mass of silky stamens.

**Liberator** (1940) Enormous vigor and luxuriant foliage. Deep crimson may turn purplish with age.

**Mariner** (1941) Darkest maroon crimson; beautiful color. Moderate height, but fine carriage.

**Erebus** (1939) Darkest of this whole group; mahogany red; conspicuous golden center.

**Tantrums** (1942) Very fine dark crimson with a wild confusion of yellow stamens.

**Sanctus** (1955) Third generation plant of this strain; fine single white, faintest flush.

## **Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis**

Season: E-M. (Rev. means the cross reversed.)

**Bordeaux** (1943) Large claret single; big pom-pom center of yellow stamens and petaloids. Showy.

**Cavatina** (1938) Rev. Large deep bright rose, with golden heart. Blooms just ahead of the lobatas.

**Edward Steichen** (1941) Rev. Magnificent dark red semi-double. Great style. Tall stems may need staking.

**Emblem** (1941) Rev. Deep lustreless red of fine substance.

**Legion of Honor** (1941) Rev. Flaming cherry scarlet with rather light green foliage. Tall.

**Madrigal** (1941) Rev. Large semi-double palest pink or white. Like an extremely early albiflora.

**Marta** (1939) Rev. Deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on petal edges.

**Postilion** (1941) Rev. Enormous deep scarlet-crimson semi-double. Very brilliant.

**Rosy Wreath** (1941) Clear, even, rose-pink. Crepe-paper texture.

## **Albiflora x officinalis Otto Froebel**

(Rev. means the cross reversed.)

Gaily-held flowers in fresh shades of pink, these were the nearest to "salmon pink" until the lobatas.

**Honor and Mercy** (both 1940) Bright rosy pink, these start early in June, just before the lobatas.

**Good Will** (1941) Rev. Almost double, deep cerise.

**Lotus Bloom** (1943) Rev. Tall semi-double light pink.

**Rosalba** (1941) Rev. Pale creamy salmon pink.

**Victoria Lincoln** (1939) Rev. Clear pink; large, and when established may be quite double.

## **Officinalis x lobata. Four "little reds"—E-M and M.**

These plants have a much better stature and habit than lobata itself and the flowers approximate the brilliant color of lobata. Being hybrids between closely related forms, they are fertile.

**Good Cheer** (1942) Lovely light salmon vermillion.

**Ladybird** (1949) Bright tomato-red.

**Little Dorrit** (1949) Dwarf plants with small flowers of an unusual salmon, flared red.

**Scarlet Tanager** (1942) Tallest and latest of the group. True vermillion red.

## **Willmottiae x macrophylla**

**Silver Dawn** (1949) White, faintly flushed, fine substance. Silvery grey-green foliage, touched with crimson edge.

## **Albiflora x lobata — the great race of "lobatas"**

This group contains many beautiful pink and red tones so long desired in the Chinese peonies: salmon, coral, rose and deep cherry pinks, to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of herbaceous hybrids yet produced. Their season is generally M. They set hardly any seed, but their F2's may be interesting.

About a dozen reds, and almost thirty pinks have been introduced, many of them so similar to one another that I have now tried to sort them roughly into color groups. The pinks especially, fade off as the flower ages,

into pale peach shades, so that a mature plant will bear flowers of many differing tones, but all harmonious. All are single except when otherwise noted.

### **The Reds:**

**Alert** (1941) Brilliant crimson.

**Alexander Woolcott** (1941) Two to three rows of brilliant shining crimson petals, unfading.

**Bravura** (1943) Shining light crimson.

**Cardinal's Robe** (1940) Shining scarlet; very striking in both color and form.

**Carina** (1944) Brilliant scarlet, many-petalled.

**Heritage** (1950) The reverse cross. Lustreless crimson red; magnificent rose-bomb double.

**Lustrous** (1942) Luminous vermilion scarlet.

**Montezuma** (1943) Crimson goblet; two rows of shining rounded petals. Tall stems. Very handsome.

**Paladin** (1950) Dwarf plants with pointed buds and glowing cerise-red flowers.

**Red Red Rose** (1942) Bright satin with a high "varnish"; rounded goblet. Very fine indeed.

**Your Majesty** (1949) Imposing erect carriage with vivid scarlet blooms. Splendid color.

### **The Pinks:**

**First, three salmon pinks**, which are the earliest to bloom of the race.

**Gillian** (1950) Pale, silvery, ethereal.

**Grace Root** (1940) Pink stigmas for contrast; this plant is less tall than the other two.

**Janice** (1939) First to bloom of the whole race; tall and vigorous.

### **Four coral pinks:**

**Claudia** (1944) Both are tall, very single, and of  
**Coralie** (1940) fine clear coral color.

**Julia Grant** (1939) Three or four rows of lustreless unflared petals. Wide leaflets. Very distinguished.

**Laura Magnuson** (1941) Wonderful color. One of the last to bloom of this whole group.

## **Shades of rose:**

**Cecilia** (1940) Deeper at base of petals, and prettily flared, inside and out.

**Cytherea** (never catalogued) One of the very finest of the race; perfection of form. Deep cherry rose.

**Elizabeth Foster** (1941) Deep bright color, large and brilliant flowers.

**Great Lady** (1943) High-held flowers of a cool pink. Tall and gay.

**Lovely Rose** (1942) "Creamy" rose single. Unique quality of color. Should be more appreciated.

**Ludovica** (1941) These two are very similar. Charm-  
**Nathalie** (1939) ingly feminine, with prettily furled  
light rose-colored petals.

**Queen Rose** (1949) A heavenly single, with furled petals, deeper at the heart, paler towards the outer edges. This is one of the finest of the whole race.

**Rose Garland** (1943) The cross reversed. China pink flowers on a rather dwarf plant. Loved in England.

**Rose Tulip** (1949) Tall plants with tall tulip-like blooms; deep rose with deep pink stigmas.

**Skylark** (1942) Gay flowers held high above the leaves.

## **And finally four that open deepest bright cherry:**

**Constance Spry** (1941) Tall plants with gay flowers with six or eight rows of petals. Very fine.

**Ellen Cowley** (1940) Small close brilliant rosette.

**Nadia** (1941) Tall plants; very single flowers.

**Sophie** (1940) Three to four rows of satiny petals. The heart is rather small and compact.

Among the lobatas is an astonishing plant:

**Moonrise** (1949) One of the rare F2's of this race; an exquisite ivory single of great vigor, substance and beauty. It blooms with its parent group.

## **Albiflora x Emodi**

**White Innocence** (1947) M. Our tallest plant, our last to bloom, and one of our loveliest. Each graceful swaying stem bears several pure white single blooms with greenish centers. So tall that a mature plant may need staking. 219 blooms counted on one plant in 1960.



## Varieties of Uncertain Parentage

**Horizon** (1943) E-M. An F2. Palest flesh single with huge gold centers. Tall plants.

**Mermaid** (1950) Large delicate flowers of palest lavender. Charming and quite unique.

**Patriot** (1943) M. Bright crimson goblets held high. Pure color. Tall vigorous plant.

## HERBACEOUS PEONY SPECIES

Besides the five offered by name, listed in order of blooming season, I have a very few plants of some other species. Please write me if you are interested.

**macrophylla.** Flowering about May 12, this vies each year with *P. tenuifolia* for the honor of opening the peony season. *Macrophylla* has white goblet flowers about 3 inches wide, and the largest of all peony leaves, highly glossy, with typical odor of box.

**tenuifolia.** The old fern-leaved peony, with the most fine-cut of all peony foliage and small gay flowers. I offer **rubra** and **rubra plena**, both crimson.

**Mlokozewitschi.** The only truly yellow herbaceous peony, and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. Foliage is lustreless grey-green. Though not certain to succeed, it should be tried in every garden.

**Emodi.** The lovely Himalayan species, with small nodding white flowers; handsome fern-like foliage.

**lobata (officinalis lobata).** I am not sure that what I offer as *lobata* is exactly the plant used in the making of my *lobata* hybrids. In any case, *lobata* is well worth growing for itself, with typically brilliant vermilion flowers on dwarf plants. Early June.

## HERBACEOUS HYBRID SEEDS

I shall be glad to send, gratis, a few seeds of herbaceous hybrids, mixed, to those customers who may wish to raise them.

\* \* \* \* \*

Two excellent books on peonies, after none had appeared for 30 years, are now available.

**PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN**, by Arno & Irene Nehrling. (Hearthside Press, 118 East 28, N.Y. 16. \$5.95).

**HERBACEOUS PEONIES**, by John C. and Gertrude S. Wister. (American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Rd., Washington 2, D. C. To be published in 1961 — Price still undetermined).

# Tree Peonies

## JAPANESE TREE PEONIES

I have a large stock of fine named varieties of this most beautiful of hardy plants. Grafts of these plants (on herbaceous understock) are available at varying prices, depending on size and quality. Kindly order **by color only**: white (sometimes flared); light pink; deep pink; scarlet; dark purple. Your graft will bear a label with its Japanese name.

## TREE PEONY SPECIES

**Paeonia lutea** is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flowers are cup-shaped, about two inches wide, like enlarged buttercups, with a lily-like fragrance. They vary from clear yellow through tones of orange, equally attractive. These set abundant seed.

**Paeonia Delavayi** Like *P. lutea*, but reddish to deep maroon in tone. Also sets seed.

**Paeonia lutea var. Ludlowi** I now have a few plants of this new variety, discovered only in 1936, to offer to the public. They were grown from seed sent me from England, where the plant is described as six feet tall with larger, more open flowers than *P. lutea*, and held well up above the leaves. I have yet to hear of *P. Ludlowi* blooming in any of the dozen or more gardens in America where it is growing. Perhaps we coddle this treasure too much.

## TREE PEONY SEEDS

Although I have too few seeds to be able to offer them in quantity for sale, I can supply a few, gratis, to those of my customers who may be interested in raising them. I can furnish *lutea*-and-*Delavayi*, mixed; or Japanese tree peonies, mixed. The *lutea* hybrids do not set seed.

## TREE PEONY HYBRIDS or LUTEA HYBRIDS

Crosses of the Japanese Tree Peony (*P. moutan* or *suffruticosa*) onto *P. lutea* or *P. Delavayi*. These bloom through the first half of June, sometimes longer.

**Argosy.** Introduced in 1928, there is now enough stock of this so that it can be had at moderate cost. Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6-7 inches wide. Plum-colored flares.

Besides Argosy I have some seventy other varieties worthy to be named and put on the market. Because these hybrids fall rather naturally into a few large color groups, I have listed them by color, with the suggestion that when ordering, you either specify a group number only, or allow me some latitude in substituting.

Stock may still be short on many of these. I offer well-established 2-year grafts, usually on their own roots, and larger plants when available.

Please consult current price list for varieties available this year, and prices.

### 1. THE "ROMAN GOLD" GROUP. Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally single.

**Amber Moon** Deep soft amber yellow, edged and flushed crimson. Early, large. Fine garden plant.

**Arcadia** Pale yellow, flared dark, good carriage. Fern-like foliage.

**Canary** Dazzling yellow, one of the very brightest. Dramatic heart. Very fine.

**Golden Bowl** Cup-shaped, intense yellow. Good substance. Flared scarlet.

**Narcissus** All-yellow, with faintest flush in center. Like Daffodil, but earlier and single.

**Roman Gold** Brilliant warm yellow, flared dark. Fine form. 72 blooms reported on one plant.

**Silver Plane** Silvery yellow; fine substance. Plum-colored flares. Foliage and stems tipped very purple.

**Silver Sails** Palest of the yellows, faintly flushed and flared. Exquisite.

**Stardust** The plant covers itself with small yellow flowers, held well. Charming.

**Wings of the Morning** Pale large flowers with greenish tones; flared dark. Petals crinkled.

Others of Group 1 are **Goldfinch**, **Golden Vanitie**, and **Nankeen**.

**2. THE "GOLDEN HIND" GROUP.** Yellow, clear or almost clear. Generally semi- or fully double.

**Age of Gold** Flat rosette of soft cream gold. Like a ruffled camellia flower.

**Alhambra** Clear warm gold, crinkled. Dark flares.

**Daffodil** Small perfect rosette of purest daffodil yellow, without flares. Lovely.

**Golden Hind** Superb fluffy 7-8 inch blooms of bright yellow, flared dark. Very fine variety.

**Golden Isles** Brilliant color; almost black flares.

**Gold Sovereign** Exquisite bright gold flat rosette with golden heart. High-held flowers.

**High Noon** Like a semi-double Argosy. Fine bright lemon yellow; good carriage.

**Hyperion** Light, brilliant cup-shaped flowers, dark flares. Late for this strain.

Others of Group 2 are **Celestial, Gold Dust, Nereid, Orion and Spanish Gold.**

**3. THE "TEA ROSE" GROUP.** Generally yellow, but tinted and suffused rose. Single to double.

**Angelet** Yellow delicately edged rose, dark center. Flowers fluted, dressy and well held.

**Apricot** Like its name; dusky rose tones. Silver-grey fern-like foliage. Flowers held high.

**Brocade** Red-gold single, edged crimson; deep wine flares. Late-blooming plant of much style.

**Countess** Deep tea-rose single of finest quality.

**Damask** Semi-double warm gold, dramatic center.

**Festival** Pale silvery yellow, edged and flushed rose. Almost double flat rosette. Very finished.

**Golden Mandarin** Old gold, single, with deep wine flares.

**Harvest** Color of ripe grain. Petals furled and edged rosy. Semi-double. Decorative.



**Holiday** Full double rosette. Cream, edged rose.

**Marchioness** Like Countess. Soft yellow, suffused pink; single. Beautiful style and substance.

**Segovia** Tawny yellow flat single. Unusual.

**Spring Carnival** Many gold flowers well held; red-edged, with dark flares.

Others of Group 3 are **Happy Days, Pastoral, Sunrising, Tea Rose, and Titania.**

**4. THE "BANQUET" GROUP.** Generally red in color, but with yellow undertones. Single to double.

**Banquet** Shining flat rosette of strawberry red. Brilliant dark center.

**Chinese Dragon** Bright crimson, elegantly fringed and crinkled. Dark flares; large golden center. Semi-double.

**Conquest** Immense flat strawberry-red flowers, lighted with yellow.

**Hesperus** Dusky rose overlaid pale yellow. Curious and exquisite color.

**Regent** Almost double blooms; reddish, suffused yellow. Handsome.

**Renown** Bright light copper-red; yellow overtones. A late, and often a long, bloomer.

**Right Royal** Creamy semi-double, overlaid and edged strawberry. Deep flares. Striking.

**Rose Flame** Full, lovely flowers; unusual deep rose.

**Summer Night** Dusky dark rose, "black" flares. Semi-double. Foliage turns bronze in fall.

Others of Group 4 are **Tiger Tiger** and **Trophy.**

**5. THE "BLACK PIRATE" GROUP.** Six darkest crimson, and nine almost black maroon. Single to double.

**Daredevil** Fine bright lustreless garnet-red single. Large flowers, and fern-like foliage.

**Phoenix** Catawba color; lustrous silvery crimson. Very dark center. Single.

- Red Cloud** Dusky mahogany red; strange and interesting new color. Semi-double.
- Red Currant** Large shining crimson semi-double. Gold center and bronzy foliage.
- Black Douglas** Double rosette, almost black maroon. Floriferous.
- Black Panther** Like Black Pirate, but semi-double. Large blooms with golden centers.
- Black Pirate** Very dark mahogany red single, with black flares. Dramatic.
- Charioteer** Deepest maroon with great dark heart. Flat, open bloom. Fine satiny texture.
- Corsair** One of the darkest and finest of all; single, slightly frilled flowers of heavy substance.
- Heart of Darkness** Very rare second generation plant of this cross. Almost black, of heavy substance. Still almost unavailable.
- Lombard** Single deep plum-color; heavy petals, flared black. Fine substance.
- Thunderbolt** Black crimson single, streaked scarlet. Much style. Floriferous.
- Vesuvian** Very dark red, fully double, furled and fringed.
- Others of Group 5 are **Monitor** and **Red Jade**.

## 6. THE "MYSTERY" GROUP. Ivories, pearled shades, suffused mauves. Single to double.

- Coronal** Deep ivory and palest yellow, edged and flushed rose. Beautifully furled.
- Harlequin** Small flowers, blended mauve and ivory cream.
- Infanta** The one white in the list. Small cup-shaped flowers with marked purple flares.
- Mystery** Large flowers. Pearled lavender, with darker shading, varied with palest green.
- Princess** Semi-double dusky mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold center. A beauty.
- Savage Splendor** Ivory ground, flashed and edged purple. The twist and flare in the petals make it unique. Flowers well held. Very striking.

## *Brief Directions for Planting and Growing Peonies*

Peonies are among our least fussy or difficult plants. Their real requirements are: **good drainage**; a sunny, open location; plenty of good rich food (and no nearby shrubs or trees to take it from them); and **good drainage**. Drainage will make more difference to the well-being of your peony than any other one thing. Soil should be neutral, its pH between 6 and 7.

**Preparing the ground for peonies:** there are many ways of doing this. Throw out the soil to a depth of 2 or 3 feet; 4 if you can. Place stones in the bottom to supply the needed drainage. Throw some of the soil back in, mixing with it fine compost, bonemeal, or dehydrated manure — **not** commercial fertilizer. Barnyard or animal manure, if used, must be ancient and well-rotted. Now put a protective layer of soil 2-3 inches thick; tamp it down firmly. If all this can have been done a year ahead, so much the better.

**Upon receiving peony roots** open and examine at once. Report damage or shortages to shipper. If roots seem dried soak in water a few hours. Peonies, especially small divisions of precious hybrids, prefer being planted soon. If you are unable to plant for 2 or 3 days, keep them moist (not wet) and cool in the packing material. To keep them 2 weeks or more, heel them into earth. Dig a trench or hole large enough to avoid crowding, lay them in, and cover with earth. They will keep this way a long time if necessary.

**To plant herbaceous peonies:** set the root into the hole previously prepared and dug, so that the buds or "eyes" are 2 inches below ground surface. **Deeper may result in failure to bloom.** In warm climates, they should be only 1 inch below, or even at the surface. Fill in the hole with good friable loam. A handful of bonemeal worked in now with each plant is good. Tamp down firmly to prevent further settling. Unless autumn rains are frequent, give 1 or 2 quarts of water with each plant.

**For the first winter:** after the ground is frozen, cover with evergreen boughs, loose straw, salt hay or other material, against alternate freezing and thawing. If the ground was well prepared, there should be nothing more to do for your peonies beyond ordinary cultivating and giving a little bonemeal or fertilizer now and then. Ground limestone will keep the soil sweet and nutrients available. Although peonies will pull through amazingly long dry seasons, they will reward you with more growth and bloom if watered.

**Tree Peonies and Lutea Hybrids** like the same treatment, except that they respond well to a little shade (if no tree-roots are involved). These are usually grafted plants. Today, deep planting is recommended. The scion (top part) whether or not it has made any "own roots," may be buried half way, or even more.

At best, however, peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

